

William Lloyd Garrison has written the Secretary of the Kansas Historical Society, the following letter, from which it will be seen that the great pioneer in the struggle for human rights, in which Kansas became so much involved, takes a deep interest in the work of our Historical Society in gathering up the materials of the history of that struggle carried on in Kansas. Naturally enough, the Society finds among its best friends and helpers, the survivors of the old guard of anti-slavery people in the East.

BOSTON, March 25, 1879.

F. G. Adams, Secretary Kansas State Historical Society:

DEAR SIR:—Please accept my thanks for your letter, and also for the pamphlet accompanying it, containing the first biennial report of the Board of Directors of the Kansas State Historical Society, which I have read with great interest.

The formation of such a society is cause for special congratulation, and an event of historical importance far beyond the limits of the State; for there is nothing more thrilling in American history than the struggle against "Border Ruffianism," (alias the slave power) to secure freedom and free institutions to Kansas—a struggle which, if it had terminated otherwise than it did, would have been fraught with appalling consequences, not only to the State itself, but to the whole country, and postponed the abolition of the dreadful system of chattel slavery to an indefinite period. No pains should be spared to accumulate and preserve whatever relates to that struggle, that posterity may know how it originated, and was conducted *pro* and *con*; what were its horrors on the part of the lawless invaders, what its sufferings and heroic sacrifices on the part of the friends of impartial liberty, and what gratitude and honor will be due to the latter for their steadfast and indomitable vindication of the rights of human nature, under trials and in the midst of peril incomparably greater than any to which the actors in the conflict for American independence were subjected.

How different would have been the fate of Kansas, if slavery had been successfully established upon her soil! Under the plastic hand of freedom, how astonishing has been her growth in intelligence, industry, enterprise, population, and material prosperity, and at the present time what strides she is making in developing her ample resources, and how irresistible is the magnetism by which she is drawing to herself from all quarters a mighty immigration that can scarcely fail to place her, ere long, in the front rank of States. This is her fitting recompense for having gone through a baptism of blood and an ordeal of fire with such firmness and devotion in the sacred cause of human freedom. May her "peace be as a river," and her "prosperity as the waves of the sea!"

Invoking for the Kansas State Historical Society all possible success, I remain,

Very truly yours,

WM. LLOYD GARRISON.

From the commonwealth, Topeka, Apr. 3, 1879.

The corrections are by H. H. H.

Ms.A.1.2 v.40 p.94 (2)